

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 OES-06 SS-15 NSC-05 SCS-03 SCA-01

PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

IO-13 /076 W

----- 026846

R 081109Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8222

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FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION NEW DELHI INFO BOMBAY MADRAS
FROM CALCUTTA DTD SEP 7 RPTD TO YOU.

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CALCUTTA 2208

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, IN, SCUL

SUBJECT: REPORTED ARREST OF CATHOLIC PRIESTS

1. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT TWO CATHOLIC PRIESTS HAVE BEEN RECENTLY ARRESTED IN RANCHI, BIHAR, FOR ORGANIZING AND PREACHING TO CATHOLICS AGAINST STERILIZATION, AND IN PARTICULAR COMPULSORY STERILIZATION, AS A MEANS OF BIRTH CONTROL. ONE OF THE PRIESTS REPORTEDLY ARRESTED WAS FR. DELH ROY, A BELGIAN JESUIT, OUR SOURCE DOES NOT KNOW IF HE IS STILL UNDER ARREST.

2. WE ARE TOLD THAT CARDINAL PICACHY, AS PRESIDENT OF THE INDIAN BISHOPS' CONFERENCE, HAD INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN TO EVERY CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE COUNTRY TO HAVE ALL CATHOLICS PRAY AT SERVICE ON SUNDAY AUGUST 8 FOR THE CHURCH IN INDIA, FOR THE CATHOLICS OF MAHARASHTRA, AND FOR THE INDIVIDUAL

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AND THE FAMILY. WHILE NO MENTION WAS MADE OF COMPULSORY

STERILIZATION PROGRAM IN MAHARASHTRA, THERE IS NO RPT NO
DOUBT IN THE MINDS OF THE CATHOLIC CLERGY OR LAITY THAT
PICACHY IS ALERTING THE FAITHFUL TO FACE A TEST OF CONSCI-
ENCE. KORN. UNQUOTE
SAXBE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Concepts: RELIGIOUS LEADERS, ARRESTS
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Draft Date: 08 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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